



PREP SPORTS | D1

## RIVERSIDE PREP SHUTS DOWN ADELANTO

In an all High Desert affair, Riverside Prep shut out Adelanto in the first round of CIF-SS playoffs



NATION | A2

## FBI FAILED TO FOLLOW TIP ON SHOOTING SUSPECT

The FBI got a tip in January that the Florida shooting suspect could be plotting an attack, but agents failed to investigate

GOOD MORNING, HIGH DESERT

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# When schools turn deadly

## Parents tackle tough questions as gun violence grows

By Paola Baker  
Staff Writer

Kristi Wilt used to see schools as a source of education, fun, and enjoyment. Then, the Sandy Hook shooting occurred in 2012.

Since then, her view on schools has drastically changed.

The best example of this is when the Hesperia mother speaks about attending a “get to know the teacher night” typically held in schools across the country at the beginning of each year.

“I put the teacher under a microscope,” Wilt said. “I ask myself, ‘will this teacher be willing to sacrifice their own life to protect my child in a school shooting? How would the school respond?’”

And these questions are being asked by parents all over the United States, more and more, as gun violence in schools continue to increase.

Wednesday’s tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people died and numerous others were injured, is the latest in a series of school shootings that have rattled the nation.

The gunman, identified as

Nikolas Cruz, 19, was a former student at the school, and multiple news outlets have reported on the apparent red flags the teenager raised prior to the shooting. He was banned from carrying a backpack on campus and posted disturbing content online, including photographs of several firearms.

The details have left parents everywhere horrified, angered, and afraid. Here in the High Desert, that fear was

exacerbated when several local schools recently found themselves dealing with shooting threats.

The threats were all determined to be false, but alarm was widely spread before investigators put them to rest. And in the wake of the Parkland shooting, local parents are forcing themselves to talk to their kids in ways they hoped they never

See SCHOOLS, A7

# Yermo’s ‘Disneyland’

## At 27,000 square feet, Eddie World is much more than the average roadside pit stop

By Davina Fisher  
For the Daily Press

YERMO — A 65-foot ice cream cone along Interstate 15 on the way to Las Vegas is the landmark that points to Eddie World — a one-stop shop that owner Alex Ringle describes as the “Disneyland of gas stations.”

The 27,000-square-foot candy factory, ice cream parlor, gas station and eatery is now open and promises to put a smile on the faces of both adults and kids alike.

Eddie World has accumulated close to 500,000 Facebook video views since its Jan. 8 soft opening. As the halfway mark between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Eddie World offers 26 gas pumps with 18 Tesla super-charging stations. Ice cream and popcorn are made onsite, along with hand-prepared pizza, salads, sandwiches, sushi and poke. Executive chef Miguel Jaimes manages the restaurant.

“Our slogan is, ‘Our fish is two hours fresher than Las Vegas,’” Ringle said. “People may say, ‘Why would you ever put sushi or fish in the middle of the desert?’ We’re willing to take risks when no one else is.”

Eddie World Site Administrator Dee De Crigler said the center of the facility is filled with candy, dried fruits and vegetables.

“There’s a Peet’s Coffee, Jerky, Calico Pizzeria,” said Crigler, “a huge dining area and an outdoor sitting area.”

An edible 3D gummy printer can make “pretty much anything you can imagine” within



Customers gas up at Eddie World in Yermo on Feb. 7. The gas station and convenience store is now open and will host its grand opening March 21. (PHOTOS BY JAMES QUIGG, DESERT DISPATCH)

minutes. Coffee machines from Switzerland don’t grind coffee beans until patrons push a button — what Ringle describes as the freshest cup of coffee.

And Ringle didn’t forget about one of the most important features of a gas station — the restroom.

“Our entire business model is built around the cleanliness and opulence of our bathrooms,” Ringle said. New interactive technology in the men’s urinals senses when a patron is near and allows them to earn points by shooting tanks while relieving themselves.

For sports fans, there’s a wall featuring the original basketball court from the Great Western Forum surrounded by Lakers memorabilia.

This second location of Eddie

World — the first is in Beatty, Nevada — has been in the works for five years. Ringle says the sudden death of a general manager forced him into the family business. He feels the Yermo Eddie World is going to give the area new opportunities and more awareness of the town’s location.

“It’s an inspiration for the future generation. There’s a lot of potential and a lot of people know that and are excited,” said Ringle, who employs 70 staff members at Eddie World. “We own a lot of property in the area so there’s potential for creating other businesses depending on how this all goes in the next couple months.”

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for March 21 where vendors, sponsors,

radio and news stations, and the public will be invited to make it a special day. The Eddie World Yermo Facebook page will be updated weekly on the upcoming celebration.

“There’s no one like us. We’re pretty much wholly unique in everything that we do,” Ringle said. “It’s going to become the attraction before people get to their destination. It will become a tradition.”

Eddie World is located at 36017 Calico Road Yermo and is open seven days a week, 6 a.m. to midnight. The restaurants, popcorn and ice cream parlour are open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with Peet’s Coffee open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. To stay up to date on Eddie World visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/EddieWorld](http://www.facebook.com/EddieWorld).



Customers walk through the large lobby of Eddie World in Yermo on Feb. 7. The massive gas station and convenience store will host its grand opening March 21.



Emalee Gustafson serves ice cream to Ezekiel Leleimene, of Barstow, at Eddie World in Yermo on Feb. 7. The massive gas station and convenience store will host its grand opening in March.



HIGH DESERT | B1

## LEADERS WITH ‘BIGGEST HEARTS’ HONORED

More than 40 High Desert civic leaders were recognized at the annual High Desert Unforgettable Heart Awards

## Counsel: Russians meddled with 2016 race

By Eric Tucker  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a historic indictment, the U.S. special counsel accused 13 Russians Friday of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, charging them with running a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Republican Donald Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The federal indictment, brought by special counsel Robert Mueller, represents the most detailed allegations to date of illegal Russian meddling during the campaign that sent Trump to the White House. It also marks the first criminal charges against Russians believed to have secretly worked to influence the outcome.

The Russian organization was funded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the indictment says. He is a wealthy St. Petersburg businessman and a member of President Vladimir Putin’s inner

See RUSSIANS, A7